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The Effects Of COVID 19 On My Family And Business

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My family helped settle and create the great state of Maine. We started in Monmouth and then ended up in Readfield, Winthrop and Kennebeck County as well. Maine came to be because of the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication of my family and other families like us. My family is the Torseys of Maine. My great-great-grandfather was Winthrop Torsey and my uncle was Henry Torsey for whom Torsey Lake and Torsey Church are named.

So why am I starting a COVID19 story at the very beginning of Maine's proud history? Think about it. Today everyone in Maine is facing exactly what my forefathers faced all those many years ago. Hardship and sacrifice. And it will be through hard work and dedication that we will get through this and prove to the world what Maine is made of!

I own a home in Maine as it is my family's home. It is where my roots are firmly planted. Maine is the reason I am who I am and what I am. Maine is in my blood. I own a business that services both Maine and NH. I also live part-time in NH and part-time in Maine. I can cross the border to work as I own a chimney company and we are essential in keeping homeowners safe during these trying times. However, I cannot go to my home in Maine as that is considered a personal trip! I'm literally locked out of my own home! I don't even know if my home is ok right now as I cannot go there at all! That alone is extremely stressful as I miss sitting on my porch and smelling the salty air or going down to the beach to just walk and think. I feel like my life in Maine is a million miles away right now as I am stuck in NH. My heart aches with a sharp pain as I pine for my home!

What can be worse than being homesick to one's core? It is dealing with discrimination. I use my NH address for my business so the business and the work vans are registered in NH. On the News Maine site and even on FaceBook pages I see other Mainers threatening people with out of state plates! Threatening them to get out of their state or else! I pay taxes in Maine and live in Maine and my family helped found Maine yet I fear that because of my NH plates I could be randomly attacked while trying to keep my fellow Mainers safe! I'm on the frontlines trying to make sure chimney fires don't happen and trying to make sure chimneys don't fall off of houses!! I'm trying to make my fellow Mainers safe yet I fear for my own safety every single time I cross the border to work! It feels as if everyone has literally gone crazy with fear! We are all in this together and we all must work together. This is no time for vigilantes to try and exact their justice on others. If a person attacks an out of state driver how do they know that that driver isn't a medical worker, chimney professional, hospital construction crew worker, news reporter or other such important professionals who are trying to help?

On the other side of that coin are the people who do want to make a positive difference. These are the people like my forefathers. People who are going to step up to the plate and risk themselves to help and get us through this. People who are level headed are going to evaluate their lives and contemplate what it is they have been doing wrong all of these long years. For example, putting material items or jobs ahead of family. They will come to realize like our forefathers did, that the most important things in life are the little things. Baking bread with the kids, watching a movie together on Pureflix, spending time talking and snuggling together, not grabbing a fast bite because you are too busy to stop and enjoy, taking time to go for a walk, taking time to look around you and see what God has created for us. Our forefathers didn't have

internet and TV and cars when they settled Maine!! Most of my family in fact walked where they needed to go!

So the ultimate question we will all need to answer at some point during this crisis is this....."Do we really need the internet and technology and fancy clothes and trinkets to be satisfied with life?" You need to of course answer this yourself but I know my answer. My answer is that this virus has been a very large wakeup call for me. I realize I was going down the wrong path and putting success ahead of my family. I don't need all the best and all the finest!! I need my family and I need to be grateful for the simple things that God has given to me!! I also need to not be judgemental towards others. So what if a car has out of state plates? Is it any of my business to judge them and judge where they are going and what they are doing? So what if Jane Doe feels that she needs a cartful of toilet paper! Maybe she has a very large family at home. Who am I to judge her without knowing how many she has waiting back at home for her!! We need to stop judging each other and pay attention to what is really important, the ones we love! They are the ones we need to be looking out for right now instead of wasting precious resources obsessing over what you may or may not think of others around you!

Lastly, I'm going to say that I wish everyone the best of luck in this crisis and hope that I have helped you to do a little soul searching. This virus is a wakeup call from God and it is time we pay attention to him!! God bless you so very much. Stay safe.

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